

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for adjusting power consumption of a radio frequency identification (RFID) reader associated with a mobile terminal, comprising:

determining a context of the mobile terminal; and

5 adjusting the power consumption of the RFID reader based upon the context of the mobile terminal relative to at least one previous context determination of the mobile terminal, wherein adjusting the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises altering the frequency at which the RFID reader is actuated.

2. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 1, further comprising:

10 detecting any RFID tags in an area proximate the mobile terminal in response to interrogation by the RFID reader; and

determining whether a context of the mobile terminal has changed, wherein determining a change in context comprises monitoring changes in the detection of RFID tags in the area proximate the mobile terminal relative to a prior interrogation to indicate a change in context of the mobile terminal.

3. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 1, wherein adjusting the power consumption comprises at least one of:

20 reducing the power consumption of the RFID reader when no change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined; and

increasing the power consumption of the RFID reader when a change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined.

4. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 3, wherein reducing the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises reducing the frequency at which the area proximate the mobile terminal is interrogated by the RFID reader when no change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined.

5. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 3, wherein reducing the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises ceasing

interrogation of the area proximate the mobile terminal by the RFID reader until a change in context of the mobile terminal is detected.

6. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 3, wherein increasing the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises increasing the frequency at which the area proximate the mobile terminal is interrogated by the RFID reader when a change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined.

7. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 1, wherein adjusting the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises changing an operational mode of the RFID reader.

8. Method for adjusting power consumption of a radio frequency identification (RFID) reader associated with a mobile terminal, comprising:
detecting any RFID tags in an area proximate the mobile terminal in response to interrogation by the RFID reader;
determining whether a context of the mobile terminal has changed, wherein determining a change in context comprises monitoring changes in the detection of RFID tags in the area proximate the mobile terminal relative to a prior interrogation to indicate a change in context of the mobile terminal; and
adjusting the power consumption of the RFID reader based upon the determination of whether the context of the mobile terminal has changed.

9. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 8, wherein adjusting the power consumption comprises at least one of:
reducing the power consumption of the RFID reader when no change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined; and
increasing the power consumption of the RFID reader when a change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined.

10. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 9, wherein reducing the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises reducing the

frequency at which the area proximate the mobile terminal is interrogated by the RFID reader when no change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined.

11. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 9, wherein reducing the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises ceasing
5 interrogation of the area proximate the mobile terminal by the RFID reader until a change in context of the mobile terminal is determined.

12. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 9, wherein increasing the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises increasing the frequency at which the area proximate the mobile terminal is interrogated by the RFID
10 reader when a change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined.

13. The method for adjusting power consumption according to claim 8, wherein adjusting the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises changing an operational mode of the RFID reader.

14. A mobile terminal, comprising:
15 a radio frequency identification (RFID) reader;
at least one processor to determine a context of the mobile terminal based upon information received regarding an environment of the mobile terminal; and
at least one controller in communication with said at least one processor that
adjusts the power consumption of said RFID reader based upon the context of the mobile
20 terminal by altering the frequency at which said RFID reader is actuated.

15. The mobile terminal according to claim 14, wherein said at least one processor comprises said at least one controller.

16. The mobile terminal according to claim 14, further comprising at least one sensor to provide at least a portion of the information received regarding the environment
25 of the mobile terminal.

17. The mobile terminal according to claim 16, wherein said at least one sensor comprises at least one of a proximity detector, a movement detector, and a temperature detector.

18. The mobile terminal according to claim 14, further comprising a timer for tracking time between determinations of a change in context.

19. The mobile terminal according to claim 14, further comprising a switch in communication with said at least one controller to adjust the power consumption of said RFID reader by changing an operational mode of said RFID reader.

20. The mobile terminal according to claim 14, wherein:
said RFID reader detects any RFID tags in an area proximate the mobile terminal in response to interrogations by said RFID reader;

said at least one processor monitors any changes in the detection of RFID tags in the area proximate the mobile terminal relative to a prior interrogation to determine whether the context of the mobile terminal has changed; and

said at least one controller adjusts the power consumption of said RFID reader based upon the determination of whether the context of the mobile terminal has changed.

21. The mobile terminal according to claim 14, wherein:
said RFID reader comprises at least one of said at least one processor and said at least one controller.

22. A computer program product for adjusting power consumption of a radio frequency identification (RFID) reader associated with a mobile terminal, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code portions stored therein, the computer-readable program code portions comprising:

a first executable portion capable of determining a context of the mobile terminal; and

a second executable portion capable of adjusting the power consumption of the RFID reader based upon the context of the mobile terminal relative to at least one

previous context determination of the mobile terminal, wherein adjusting the power consumption of the RFID reader comprises altering the frequency at which the RFID reader is actuated.

23. The computer program product for adjusting power consumption
5 according to claim 22, further comprising:

a third executable portion capable of detecting any RFID tags in an area proximate the mobile terminal in response to interrogation by the RFID reader; and

wherein said first executable portion is also capable of determining whether a context of the mobile terminal has changed, wherein determining a change in context
10 comprises monitoring changes in the detection of RFID tags in the area proximate the mobile terminal relative to a prior interrogation to indicate a change in context of the mobile terminal.

24. The computer program product for adjusting power consumption
15 according to claim 22, wherein said second executable portion is also capable of at least one of:

reducing the power consumption of the RFID reader when no change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined by said first executable portion; and

increasing the power consumption of the RFID reader when a change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined by said first executable portion.

20 25. The computer program product for adjusting power consumption according to claim 24, wherein said second executable portion is capable of reducing the power consumption of the RFID reader by reducing the frequency at which the area proximate the mobile terminal is interrogated by the RFID reader when no change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined by said first executable portion.

25 26. The computer program product for adjusting power consumption according to claim 24, wherein said second executable portion is capable of reducing the power consumption of the RFID reader by ceasing interrogation of the area proximate the mobile terminal by the RFID reader until a change in context of the mobile terminal is detected by said first executable portion.

27. The computer program product for adjusting power consumption according to claim 24, wherein said second executable portion is capable of increasing the power consumption of the RFID reader by increasing the frequency at which the area proximate the mobile terminal is interrogated by the RFID reader when a change in the context of the mobile terminal is determined by said first executable portion.

28. The computer program product for adjusting power consumption according to claim 22, wherein said second executable portion is also capable of adjusting the power consumption of the RFID reader by changing an operational mode of the RFID reader.